You may be aſſur'd of the Truth of this, having myſelf made a good many Trials of the Knives and the Forks: How they came by this magnetick Power, or how Lightning ſhould be capable of communicating ſuch a Power, is the *Quære*.

Decem. 6th,
1732.

IX. *A further Account of the extraordinary Effects of the ſame* Lightning *at* Wakefield. *By Dr.* Cookſon. *Communicated by the ſame.*

THIS Storm of Thunder and Lightning happen'd the latter End of *July*, 1731. and not only broke the Glaſs and Iron Frames of the Croſs-Chamber Windows, but at the ſame time ſplit ſome Studds in the Corner of a Wood-Houſe; and paſſing into a Room, ſplit likewiſe a large Deal Box, which ſtood in the South Corner of the Room, where the Lightning enter'd, and diſperſed a great many Dozen of Knives and Forks, which were put up in the Box, all over the Room.

Upon gathering up theſe Knives and Forks, ſome of them were melted, others ſnapp'd in ſunder; others had their Hafts burnt; others their Sheaths either ſinged or burnt; others not: But what was moſt remarkable, upon laying them on a Counter where there were Iron Nails, Rings, *&c.* it was obſerved, that when any of them were taken up, there

hung a Nail or Ring at the End of each of them: moſt of them were try'd, and found to do the ſame; but little further Notice being taken of them at that Time, they were thrown aſide as damag'd Goods.

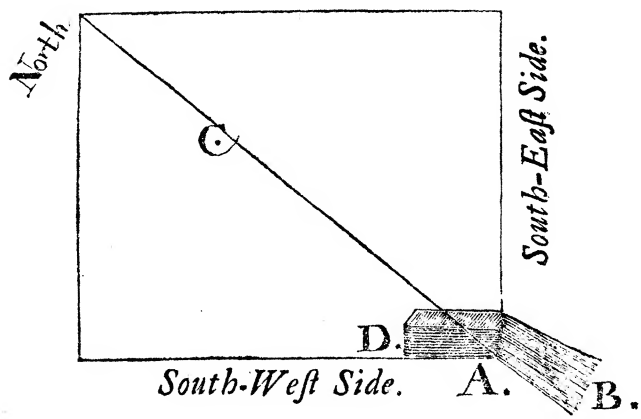
Some Diſcourſe concerning the Effects of Thunder and Lightning happening to be the Subject of Converſion in a Company, where the Owner of theſe Knives was not long ago, he told them what had happen'd at his Houſe, and particularly to the Knives and Forks; and being ask'd whether he had any of them left, ſaid that he had; and upon tryal it was found that a good many of them were poſſeſs'd of this magnetick Virtue.

Hearing of this, I went and found what was related, and what I ſent you an Account of before, to be Fact, and have now ſent you a couple of Knives and Forks, one for yourſelf, another for the Royal Society.

The Whittle-Knife, with the Box-Handle, is that which I would have you preſent to the Society; 'tis an excellent one, and one of the beſt: I had thought to have kept it myſelf; but if it will be acceptable to that famous Body, it will be much more agreeable to me. They will perceive that it has been uſed pretty much; and the Owner's Son, who gave it to me, told me, that he has made uſe of it for almoſt a Year and an half to all manner of Purpoſes; notwithſtanding which it ſtill retains the magnetick Virtue to an extraordinary Degree.

The Situation of the Room, Poſition of the Box and Knives, and Direction of the Lightning, may poſſibly contribute to a fuller Idea of the Matter: I ſhall

I ſhall therefore preſume to give a Plan of them, an Horizontal one, and ſubmit it and the following *Quæries* to the Conſideration of that Learned Body.



A. The South Angle of the Room where the Lightning enter'd.

B. The Direction of the Lightning.

C. The Polar or Magnetick Line.

D. The Box with the Knives lying in a Direction parallel to the longer Sides of the Box.

Quære, Whether the Knives and Forks lying in ſuch a Direction as either to coincide, or make but an acute Angle with the magnetick Line, might any ways contribute to their imbibing this magnetick Virtue; ſince a Bar of Iron placed in ſuch a Direction, ſhall in a ſmall time receive a tranſient Polarity; and if it continue a long time in that Poſition, a fix'd and permanent one?

Quære,

Quære, Whether the Knives and Forks lying in ſuch a Poſition, and being violently heated by the Lightning, might not, as they cool'd, ſtrongly imbibe this magnetick Virtue; ſince a Bar of Iron heated and placed in a certain Direction to cool, will ſooner imbibe this Power than in the ſame Direction cold?

Quære, The Polarity of the Compaſs has been alter'd by Lightning, as it is to be ſeen in the *Philoſophical Tranſactions*: Now how ſhould Lightning be capable of communicating ſuch a Power in this Caſe, ſince it is plain that it has taken it away in another?

F I N I S.

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MDCCXXXVI.